

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
G01N15/14 B01L3/00 C12M1/22

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
G01N B01L C12M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 707 869 A (WOLF ET AL) 13 January 1998 (1998-01-13) column 2, line 37 – column 3, line 33 column 5, line 14 – column 6, line 11 column 9, line 7 – column 10, line 46 — US 2002/189374 A1 (DESILETS KENNETH ET AL) 19 December 2002 (2002-12-19) paragraphs '0032! – '0038!; figures 1-4 — US 2003/124716 A1 (HESS ROBERT A ET AL) 3 July 2003 (2003-07-03) paragraph '0201!; figure 23 —/—	1-16, 19-24, 27,28, 32-47,49 1-31 1-3, 16-18
X		

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
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- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

31 January 2006

Date of mailing of the international search report

07/02/2006

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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 650 323 A (ROOT ET AL) 22 July 1997 (1997-07-22) column 4, line 22 - column 7, line 18; figures 1-14 -----	1,2, 4-16, 19-26, 30,31
X	US 4 308 351 A (LEIGHTON ET AL) 29 December 1981 (1981-12-29) column 3, line 53 - column 4, line 38; figures 1-7 -----	1,2, 4-16, 18-23, 25,27, 28,32-49
X	US 2003/104494 A1 (RAVKIN ILYA ET AL) 5 June 2003 (2003-06-05) figures 7-9; examples <u>3,4,6,8</u> -----	1,2,4-8, 13-19, 32-49